

to better anchor the fibers of the ribbons (10) and (11) to the backing material. Spaces between the coating ridges (15) leave strip areas in the backing (8) to allow for drainage through the backing. Alternatively, the coating can be spread across the entire underside surface of the backing (8) to better prevent the growth of grass through the underside of the backing (8). Grass may have a tendency to grow over time underneath the backing and infiltrate between the spaces in the ballast (13) in the green fiber areas of ribbons (11). Application of a coating on the underside of the backing prevents such growth through the backing (8). The coating may be applied only in the underside area of the light coloured ribbons (10) if drainage is detrimentally affected by full underside coating. Alternatively, time release growth inhibitor compounds may be placed on the backing (8) either directly applied to the backing (8) or included in the granular ballast (13) to retard natural grass growth in the area of the strip.

FIG. 5 illustrates a second embodiment of the invention where a one coloured green synthetic turf strip (16) is disposed between adjacent patio stones (17) resting on a level soil or sand subsurface. The strips (16) are placed on the subsurface and patio stones (17) placed over the anchoring strips (12). Ballast (13) is then deposited between the stones (17) and fills the space between individual ribbons of the turf strip (17).

Although the above description and accompanying drawings relate to specific preferred embodiments as presently contemplated by the inventor, it will be understood that the invention in its broad aspect includes mechanical and functional equivalents of the elements described and illustrated.

What is claimed is:

1. (Amended) A synthetic grass turf marking strip, for visually marking lines in a natural grass turf surface when embedded within a shallow trench cut into the natural grass turf surface, said strip comprising:

an elongated flexible sheet backing, an underside of the backing comprising a trench bedding surface; and parallel rows of synthetic ribbons, extending upwardly from a top surface of the backing a pile height sufficient to extend a selected distance above said trench, the rows of ribbons including a middle band of ribbons of a line color and a pair of outer bands of ribbons of a (green) second color laterally adjacent the middle band, the second color selected to blend visually with that of the natural grass turf surface (;

a pair of elongate flexible turf anchoring strips laterally outward of the outer bands of ribbons and secured to the backing; and ballast means on the backing for securing the marking strip within the trench, the ballast means comprising granular material disposed between the parallel rows of synthetic ribbons).

2. (Amended) A turf marking strip according to claim (1) 16 wherein the anchoring strips include bonding means for interconnecting with roots of the turf.

3. A turf marking strip according to claim 2 wherein the bonding means comprise a plurality of perforations in the anchoring strips.

4. A turf marking strip according to claim 3 wherein the anchoring strips comprise a pen weave fabric.

5. (Amended) A turf marking strip according to claim (1) 17 wherein the granular material consists of particles selected from the group consisting of: sand; crumb rubber; gravel; granulated plastic; cork granules; styrene granules; EPDM rubber granules; neoprene granules; and perlite granules.

6. A turf marking strip according to claim 5 wherein the granular material comprises a mixture of silica sand and ground crumb rubber.

7. A turf marking strip according to claim 5 wherein the particles range in size between four and seventy mesh.

8. A turf marking strip according to claim 1 wherein the backing comprises a fabric through which the ribbons are tufted.

9. A turf marking strip according to claim 8 wherein the backing comprises multiple plies of fabric layers.

10. A turf marking strip according to claim 9 including a needle punched fabric layer.

11. A turf marking strip according to claim 8 wherein the backing includes coating means on the backing underside for securing the ribbons to the backing.

12. A turf marking strip according to claim 8 wherein the backing includes coating means on the backing underside for impeding growth of natural turf grass through the backing.

13. A turf marking strip according to claim 1 wherein the ribbons consist of fibers selected from the group consisting of: polypropylene fibers; polyethylene fibers; and plastic fibers.

14. A turf marking strip according to claim 1 wherein the parallel rows of ribbons are spaced apart a distance in the range between 1/4 to 2 1/4 inches, and the parallel rows of ribbons have a pile height in the range between 1 1/2 to 5 inches.

15. A turf marking strip according to claim 1 further including time release growth inhibitors on the backing.

16. (New) A turf marking strip according to claim 1 further comprising: a pair of elongate flexible turf anchoring strips laterally outward of the outer bands of ribbons and secured to the backing.

17. (New) A turf marking strip according to claim 1 comprising ballast means on the backing for securing the marking strip within the trench, the ballast means comprising granular material disposed between the parallel rows of synthetic ribbons.